

### REMARKS

Before this amendment, claims 1 and 3-43 were pending in the application. The Office rejected claims 1, 3, 11-14, and 31-34, and objected to claims 4-10, 15-30, and 35-43 as depending on respective rejected claims. The Office Action indicated that the objected-to claims would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claims and intervening claims.

Although the Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejections of, and objections to, the claims, the Applicant with this paper cancels and amends the claims without prejudice and seeks to pursue the allowable (objected to) claims in this application. More specifically, the Applicant cancels without prejudice claims 1, 3, 11-14, and 31-34, and amends claims (to add the limitations of claim 1), 15 (to add the limitations of claim 11), 16, 20 (to add the limitations of claim 13), 35 (to add the limitations of claim 31), 36 (to add the limitations of claim 33), and 40.

The Applicant reserves the right, and presently intends, to pursue the rejected and/or other claims in follow-on and/or other applications and to present arguments with respect to such claims in such applications. Furthermore, the Applicant notes that it does not amend or reject the claims because of the rejections over the cited references; rather, the Applicant merely seeks to facilitate compact prosecution and to expedite the issuance of a patent.

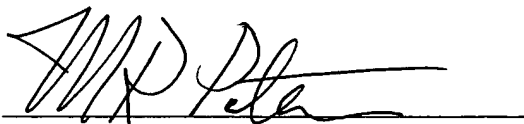
In view of the above remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that the presently pending claims are allowable. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests a prompt Notice of Allowance.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in allowable condition. Consequently, favorable reconsideration and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. No fee (with the exception of any petition for extension of time) is believed to be due. Should any fees under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, however, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from Deposit Account No. 10-1205/SILA:080.

The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate expeditious and compact prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. R. Peterson', is written over a horizontal line.

MAXIMILIAN R. PETERSON  
Registration No. 46,469  
Attorney for Applicant

O'KEEFE, EGAN & PETERMAN, L.L.P.  
1101 Capital of Texas Highway South  
Building C, Suite 200  
Austin, Texas 78746  
Voice: (512) 347-1611  
Fax: (512) 347-1615